

SAFETY ALERT



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339




NOV 3 0 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcyclist Not Wearing Proper Safety Gear During an Accident -- Safety Alert
05-03

1. A recent accident involving a Soldier on a motorcycle being hit by a truck resulted in the hospitalization of the Soldier. The truck driver was in the right lane on Alabama Avenue and made a last minute decision to cross to the left. The truck driver failed to check before turning and did not see the motorcycle in the left lane. The truck struck the motorcycle, resulting in injuries to the Soldier.
2. The motorcyclist was not wearing a Department of Transportation (DOT) approved helmet. The helmet worn by the Soldier was a half-helmet known as a "skid lid", which has an extremely thin outside shell and very limited padding inside. Approved helmets will always include a DOT sticker that is generally under the clear coat of the helmet. Wear of a DOT approved helmet is mandatory at all times for all service members riding motorcycles, as well as for all civilians riding motorcycles through JRTC and Fort Polk.
3. The motorcyclist involved in this accident was also not properly wearing his reflective safety belt. In this instance, the Soldier wore the reflective belt around his waist. The Fort Polk Safety Office strongly recommends that motorcyclists wear the reflective safety belt diagonally across the chest to increase visibility.
4. For a motorcyclist, being visible and wearing a DOT approved helmet is essential to survival. Take every precaution to ensure that other drivers have awareness of you and that you are always wearing a DOT approved helmet. For all drivers, it is essential to be cognizant of your surroundings at all times. In this case, the truck driver made a hasty decision to turn, without checking to see if his path was unobstructed. A Soldier was injured as a result.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON
BULLETIN BOARDS!**


MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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